

his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR AS OFFERED BY LINDA DICKENS OF GRAND BAY, AL

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last week one of my constituents, Linda Dickens, submitted a letter to Mobile's Press-Register offering a heartfelt tribute to her father, P.H. Murray.

As we pause this week to salute the men and women who have served in America's Armed Forces and honor the courage and sacrifice of those who continue to serve today, I found her letter especially poignant.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to ask that this op-ed piece be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety, for I found Ms. Dickens' letter an appropriate way to say thank you to the men and women who have done so much to protect this nation:

SALUTE TO A SPECIAL VETERAN

Veterans Day will not be the same this year because my special World War II veteran will not be here with me to celebrate. He was my father, P.H. Murray, who passed away Sept. 30, one day after his 84th birthday.

He was a great American hero to our family. His American flag is still flying outside his home, as it did every day he lived. He went off to war as a boy at the age of 18 and came back a man. He brought back memories, good and bad, that would last a lifetime.

He was proud to have served under Gen. George Patton in the Battle of the Bulge.

He was quite a joker when he was young, and when he was awakened in the middle of the night to see his commanding officer, the first time he thought, "What have I done?" It was a good thing, because the officer had learned Daddy had been a burner at the shipyard before the war, and they needed men to help burn plows to put on the front of the tanks so they could go over the hedge rows, which made the tanks turn over and easy targets for Germans to shoot. This made him very proud that he had done something special for his country.

For years as a child I never understood how Daddy could squat on the floor for hours at a time without moving. It was because for 19 months he didn't see a chair or a bed.

He never talked to us much when we were little. If only I had known the nightmares my mom hid from us that he was having about the war. He had so many memories bottled up in him.

He was a great father and provider and was always there for us five kids. He taught us to work hard, prepare for the future and always value what the men of WWII had done for our great country. He was proud that he had helped with our freedom and that we were all able to go to college.

He was a very smart man, even though he didn't go to college because of his children. He was a quiet man until the last few years, when he opened up about the war. He began to tell us stories about the war.

Some were funny, and others you could tell took a toll on his heart. This is when I really came to realize what the war had done for us.

I had taken history courses about the war, but they were nothing like the personal stories Daddy told. He said we never learned the real history of the war in a history book. Many young people don't realize what veterans did to keep our country free.

Daddy lost his two childhood friends in the war. One was killed and the other so shell-shocked that he could never come home to live. I remember the trips to see "Mr. Jim" at the Veterans Home in Biloxi. Daddy never forgot about him, even though he felt sad that he was not able to come home to his family.

Daddy taught us love, how important family is and that it doesn't matter what you have, it is what you do with it. Never forget we are free, and never forget the men who fought and the ones who gave their lives so we could be free.

He was proud of his WWII hat, which he wore proudly each day. He was buried with it. It made him feel proud and honored when someone asked him where he served.

I give all the veterans of this great country a "five-star salute," as my father would say when you did something good. Daddy, I give you a "five-star salute" for all you did for me and our country. I will miss you this Veterans Day and all the other days of my life. Thanks for a job well done.

Linda Dickens, Grand Bay.

HONORING DR. J. EUGENE GRIGSBY

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. J. Eugene Grigsby, a talented and multi-faceted artist who has been instrumental in highlighting the importance of combining art with culture and history as a means of expression. As such, he is considered by many as "one of America's leading artistic minds and recognized internationally as an artistic voice for the African American community." It was in keeping with this distinction that he was recently honored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation at its Celebration of Leadership for the Visual and Performing Arts.

From his early days as a young art teacher in 1946 at Phoenix's segregated Carver High School, Dr. Grigsby has concentrated on conveying to his students the importance of incorporating their personal being and heritage in their works—a message he continued to demonstrate as he rose to become Professor Emeritus of Art at Arizona State University. As an internationally respected artist himself, who has mastered a number of mediums including oils, acrylics and lithographs, his works are noted for their ability to capture the spirit and dignity of his African and African-American subjects in scenes depicting their daily life.

A pioneer in today's promotion of multi-cultural art, Dr. Grigsby led the way to contemporary art instruction that goes beyond work in the studio by including the study of history and how man has chosen to express himself in differing environments. It is within this context that his celebrated book, *Art and Ethnicity: Background for Teaching Youth in a Pluralistic Society*, has provided educators with valuable insights into art education and will continue to impact the study of art well into the future.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend, honor and thank Dr. Grigsby, one of the great

American artists, for his continued service and contributions to the world of art and academic communities.

SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for the Second Chance Act of 2007, a bill to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of ex-offenders into the community.

With the dramatic increase in criminal convictions involving illegal drugs since the 1980's, the Nation's prisons have become severely overcrowded. As a result, every day hundreds of men and women are released from prison into their communities for the difficult task of restarting their lives.

It is even more difficult for those who have been incarcerated for a lengthy amount of time, those with limited education, and those who lack basic job skills. These men and women need assistance transitioning back into the community. Some assistance is needed with locating housing, finding employment, getting drug treatment, and mentoring.

This bill would provide that assistance. It is crucial to provide that assistance because it will reduce recidivism, improve lives, and improve communities. At a time when communities all across our great country have been torn apart by crime and drugs, we need to do all we can to help Americans who need a second chance at life. Let's send a message to America that we care about those who need help getting on their feet.

I thank my colleague DANNY DAVIS for introducing this important bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN EDWARD GRENIER

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Mr. John Edward Grenier was a devoted family man and one of the most respected political strategists in modern Alabama politics.

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1930, John Grenier attended Jesuit High School and lettered in track, baseball, and football. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Tulane University. He entered the United States Marine Corps and rose to the rank of captain. He served with distinction in Korea as a pilot, flying over 100 patrols in squadron VMF 312, known as the Checkerboard Squadron.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, John Grenier attended New York University and received an LL.M. degree in taxation. He worked on Wall Street for a brief time before moving to Birmingham, Alabama, to work with Southern Natural Gas